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INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Spain

DATE: 25X1A6a

SUBJECT Visit to Spain of the Delegates of the MRP

INFO. [REDACTED]
DIST. EX August 1947

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This document is hereby regraded to CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the letter of 10 October 1978 from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Archivist of the United States.

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SUPPLEMENT

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[REDACTED] of the visit to Madrid and Seville in late May 1947 of two delegates of the French Mouvement Republicain Populaire, Louis Terrenoire, Director of l'Aube, and Marc Scherer, Director of Politique.

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[REDACTED] the social activities of the visitors of the type he termed "protocol visits." In this category he mentioned a dinner given by Mgr. Beyer-Was, Ecclesiastical Advisor of the French Embassy, at his home. Among the guests were Antonio de Luna y Garcia, prominent professor of international law, Joaquin Ruiz Jimenez of Pax Romana, and Dr. Bonet of Accion Catolica. Another occasion was a dinner-reception at the French Embassy attended by the same persons and also by Dr. Gregorio Maranon; Felix Millet; Jose Larraz, former Finance Minister; and Pedro Cortina Manri, a young diplomat now attached to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs who was formerly stationed in Tangier and who participated in the negotiations leading to the establishment of the present set-up in the zone. Ruiz Jimenez took advantage of these occasions to monopolize the French visitors and to present himself as one of the outstanding organizers of the future Spanish Christian Democratic party. At the French Embassy Ruiz Jimenez had a slight incident with Millet. In reply to Ruiz Jimenez' suggestions concerning an entente between the Catholics of both countries, Millet replied that an understanding between the Catalan Catholics and the French was most unlikely, and between the French and the Spanish, impossible. Ruiz Jimenez abruptly cut short the conversation.

2. A luncheon was given for the visitors by Ruiz Jimenez and attended by the French diplomatic representative. All the Spaniards present were faithful followers of their host, and most of them were persons under thirty-five years old. The only important Spanish guest was Sebastian Eric, Director General of the Political Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The French called this luncheon a "bath in Francoism." The main topic discussed was the situation of the Church in Spain and the justification of its position vis-a-vis France.
3. On 29 May the two French visitors interviewed Martin Artajo at his home. There were no other Spaniards present. Martin Artajo spent some time in justifying his collaboration with Franco, and expressed confidence in the outcome of the referendum and of the municipal elections which he said would probably be held in October or next Spring. In spite of the private

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Auth: [REDACTED] Approved For Release 1999/09/24 : CIA-RDP82-00457R000800390007-8

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character of the interview, Martin Artajo's conversation did not go beyond the limit of diplomatic formality.

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4. Activities of the French visitors

"visits" began with a luncheon planned by the son of General Fanjul. In addition to the host and Millet, there were present Alfonso Garcia Valdecasas, of the first Falange triumvirate, now a monarchist convert and a signer of the message sent to the Pretender in the early part of 1946; Camero del Castillo, also a founder of the Falange and now in agreement with Garcia Valdecasas; Vicente Gallego, a director of the weekly review Mundo who was a monarchist affiliate of the CEDA before the Civil War; and the son of Dr. Maranon, who also is a monarchist. All these guests favored the restoration of the monarchy without a plebiscite. They indicated a desire for contact with republican organizations but in a manner very carefully limiting any collaboration with such groups.

5. Francisco de Luis, Director of "Editorial Catolica," was one of the guests invited to the home of Mgr. Boyer-Mas. Since the atmosphere on this occasion was not auspicious for serious conversation, Millet invited de Luis to dinner at his home so that Terrenoire and Scherer could have an opportunity to talk with him. On this occasion de Luis was the only Spanish guest. The French guests were impressed with his significance as a personality on the Spanish scene. He indicated his complete opposition to Franco and his devotion to the Pretender and to Gil Robles, and said he felt that the plebiscite should take place only after Don Juan had returned to Spain as the head of a transition government. He acknowledged the great potential influence of Manuel Jimenez Fernandez, but said that he lacked confidence in the former Agriculture Minister as the leader of the Christian Democratic movement because of his impetuosity. De Luis favored the establishment of a coalition which would do away with the traditional religious division between the right and the left, in line with the policy advocated by the MRP. He indicated his fear that the Government, already exerting a powerful influence on the editorial policy of La, would gain complete control of the Catholic daily. Source stated that de Luis was taking over certain newspapers in the provinces with the idea of setting up a chain of daily newspapers to be used in the future for political purposes.

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6. Terrenoire and Scherer had a short visit with "La Iglesia" of Union Republicana (), during which the latter admitted the prime importance of the Alianza Nacional de Fuerzas Democraticas among the clandestine organizations, although he was not a member and was disposed to place every obstacle in the path of its attempts at collaboration with the monarchists. When his visitors suggested that both the Pretender and the Republican Government-in-Exile withdraw from the arena in order to facilitate the give-and-take solution which elements outside both groups might undertake, his reaction was favorable. He expressed the opinion that the republican sector needed the support of a strong organization of the MRP type.
7. The French visitors were unfavorably impressed by their interviews with Gomez Paracha of the Izquierda Republicana and two of his colleagues of the Izquierda Central Committee. Their exaggerated republican dogmatism annoyed the Frenchmen. The Izquierda leaders expressed utter lack of confidence in the accomplishments of the AMFD and in its member groups. According to them, the Socialist Party had no chance to maintain the

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position it had held prior to the Civil War, because the Izquierda Republicana adequately represented republican sentiment and the Communist Party fulfilled the requirements of a workers' party. To the visitors' questions concerning a suitable means to halt the drive of the Communist Party, Gomez Paracha gave fragmentary, childish and inconsistent replies.

8. The two French visitors had a private interview with the Socialist leader Rafael Henche, former Mayor of Madrid. His position was almost exactly the same as that of his colleague Miguel Angel, Socialist delegate to the ANFD, who expressed confidence in the coalition body and emphasized the necessity of achieving as soon as possible a transition accord. Miguel Angel discussed in detail the economic situation created by the Franco regime, analyzing the facts in an objective manner which impressed the Frenchmen. They said repeatedly that Miguel Angel was one of the people who had given them a true picture of the Spanish situation.

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██████████ Miguel Angel, in talking privately with him, was very reticent about regional problems and showed a pro-Prieto point of view on the question of autonomy which was not indicated in his talk with the Frenchmen.

9. An interview had been planned with the Secretary General of the Confederacion Nacional del Trabajo, but his arrest made this impossible. Serafin Gonzalez Inestal and Miguel Palacios, of the Confederacion's Central Committee, met with the Frenchmen ██████████ as a very interesting interview. They affirmed their support of the ANFD, and their opposition to the undertaking of "direct action." They said that the abandonment of the "direct action" policy and the adoption of a policy of collaboration had been decided on at a plenary meeting of October 1935, and they added that the position had been modified in 1937 and would be re-evaluated as soon as it was possible to hold a plenary meeting. Palacios and Gonzalez Inestal affirmed that the CNT remained totally opposed to the Communist Party.

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10. All the groups that Terrenoire and Scherer visited, except that of Ruiz Jimenez, urged that the Frenchmen see Jimenez Fernandez, referring to him as the only possible leader of the Christian Democratic movement. They conferred with him on 30 May. ██████████ Jimenez Fernandez' analysis of the Spanish situation made the greatest impression on the visitors, especially as coming from a man who had lived under the Franco regime from its earliest days without becoming involved with its collaborators, including elements of the Church. Jimenez Fernandez said that he was the leader of the resistance movement throughout the south of Spain, by common consent of all republican organizations, including the Communists. He claimed that on account of his attitude before as well as after 1936, he was designated to be the sole organizer of the Christian Democratic Party. To carry out the organization work, he reportedly has a network of representatives in the principal cities of Spain, and is assisted in directing the growing movement by Francisco Pelsmaeker, professor of Ecclesiastical Law in Seville, and Francisco Abascal, brother-in-law of Martin Artajo, also living in Seville. Jimenez Fernandez said that either of these two men could take over the leadership of the whole resistance movement in the south if anything should happen to him. Abascal was cited as his confidant, and was described as strongly anti-Franco. Jimenez Fernandez spoke of his correspondence with Ruiz Jimenez, and denounced those whom he called pseudo-Christian Democrats.* He said

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Comment:

For an account of Jimenez Fernandez' rebuff to Ruiz Jimenez' invitation to participate in the formation of a Christian Democratic Party, see the introductory paragraph of ██████████

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that if the best solution to the Spanish problem were believed to be a monarchy, it would be acceptable to him, remarking that his "opportunism" on this subject constituted the chief difference between him and Francisco de Luis. He spoke of his contacts with the Infante Alfonso de Orleans, for whom he indicated great admiration, and who, he said, would be willing to commit himself to Jimenez Fernandez' plan for the establishment of a unifying anti-Franco organization. He indicated dissatisfaction with the passive position of Gil Robles and with the CEDA leader's devotion to the Pretender. Nevertheless, he felt that it was possible that Gil Robles, with his large personal following, might some day be a potent factor in the Christian Democratic movement.

11. Jimenez Fernandez read to his guests his outline of the fundamental principles involved in the establishment of a unified resistance group, and discussion of the subject followed. Although he discussed freely the possible amendment of his document, he later [REDACTED] that he was determined to stand by what he had written.

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